

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Return of Korean Troops from China to North Korea

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1. Between 20 October and 10 November 1949, about ten thousand Koreans who, as members of the railroad troops of the Communist armies in Manchuria, had been scattered throughout northeast China, were collected at Harbin and transferred to North Korea. This was the fourth large-scale movement of Koreans from the Chinese Communist forces to Korea.* Troops were sent into North Korea via Manpojin (126-18, 41-10) to various destinations; about half remained in Wonsan (127-26, 39-10), and the remainder were distributed to Hamhung (127-32, 39-54), Kanggye (126-36, 40-58), and Pyongyang.
2. The Korean troops wore Chinese Communist uniforms but were not armed. The group included about a hundred non-commissioned officers, five or six company commanders, and a few higher staff members. Among these were:
 - a. CH'OE Kang (崔 岗), Political Commissar for a Harbin regiment of the railroad guards in north Manchuria; formerly in Yenan.
 - b. KIM P'ung (金 楓), battalion commander of the railroad guard in south Manchuria.
 - c. WANG Il-san (王 一山), battalion commander of the railroad guard in eastern Manchuria; formerly in the northeast anti-Japanese forces.
 - d. YI Song-man (李 成滿), commander of the Tunghua (125-57, 41-43) regiment of the railroad guard in south Manchuria; formerly in Yenan.
3. YI Hong-im (李 紅稔), major general commanding the Railroad Constabulary of North Korea, made the statement that his brigade was to be expanded to full operating strength, apparently four or five thousand men, with Communist returnees from China.

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4. Approximately one battalion (750 men) of the troops returned from China to North Korea were transferred from Sin Ae (新愛) School, Sonkyo-ri (新橋里), Pyongyang, by freight train to the south on 27 October 1949. They were divided into platoons for assignment to various units of the 38 Brigade. The Brigade headquarters ordered the men to be given a hearty welcome.

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- * Comment. Movement of Koreans from the Chinese Communist armies into North Korea has been reported [redacted] over a period of about six months. Exact descriptions and unit names and numbers vary considerably, but it appears that more than ten thousand troops have actually entered Korea. [redacted]

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